

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Stearns on July 16, 2010.

Additionally, this application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 59-66 directed to a process non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 59-66 have been cancelled.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 17, line 15, after "cylinder-shaped bearing 1." insert the sentence --The wires being flush with opposite side edges of the backing and flush with the backing along their entire length so that there is no radial gap between the wires and the backing.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 34, line 6, remove the term "bordering" and insert the phrase --flush with--

In claim 39, line 1, after "wherein" remove the letter "t" and insert the term --at--

In claim 39, line 2, after "between" insert --the--

Cancel claims 59-66.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art documents GB524128A and Ecer (US Pat. 4,474,861) teach bearing materials which have strips of bearing material, however neither disclose the strips of bearing material which are flush with the opposite side edges of the backing. In the case of GB524128A the steel backing extends laterally beyond the bearing material forming a barrier to hold in the bearing and soft materials. There is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to remove this portion of the steel backing because it would remove the containment function which provides integrity to the bearing and soft materials under a bearing load. In the case of Ecer one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have found it obvious to relocate the bearing material to form a strip of bearing material which runs along and flush with the edge of the steel backing as there is no apparent motivation to alter the configuration as taught.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam C. Krupicka whose telephone number is (571)270-7086. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer McNeil can be reached on (571) 272-1540. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Adam C Krupicka/
Examiner, Art Unit 1784

/Jennifer C. McNeil/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1784